

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 CEQ-01 EPA-01 NSF-01 /119 W

----- 027724

R 061818Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0223

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11370

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, CSCE, US, UR, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE BASKET II: FOLLOW-UP TO ECE EXECUTIVE

SECRETARY STANOVNIK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

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REF: (A) STATE 153188; (B) BONN 10540 (NOTAL);

(C) BONN 10685 (NOTAL); (D) BONN 11218 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH DITTMAR, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN ECONOMICS MINISTRY, AND OTHER ECONMIN OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR BASKET II ACTIVITIES, EMBOFFS RECEIVED COMMENTARY ON FRG NEGOTIATING POSITION VIS-A-VIS SOVIETS ON ECE ISSUE AND SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR LARGE CONGRESSES. DITTMAR ASKED THAT THIS COMMENTARY ON FRG RESPONSE TO SOVIETS NOT BE DIVULGED TO OTHER FRG OFFICIALS. EMBOFFS IN TURN BRIEFED DITTMAR ON STANOVNIK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND U.S. POSITION.

2. ECONMIN OFFICIAL (MOHRMANN) WHO HAD TAKEN PART IN THE FRG DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET CSCE AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH, CHARACTERIZED FRG TACTICS IN RESPONDING TO SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR LARGE CONGRESSES AS "DILATORY". FRG NEGOTIATORS DID NOT WISH TO SAY NO, BUT RATHER ATTEMPTED TO PLACE THE ONUS ON THE SOVIETS TO FLESH OUT THEIR PROPOSALS IN MORE DETAIL. DITTMAR EXPLAINED THAT FRG OFFICIALS WERE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH PROPOSED SOVIET CONGRESSES ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THAT NO REAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS WOULD COME OF SUCH MASSIVE GATHERINGS. FURTHER THEY BELIEVED THE SOVIETS WOULD USE THE CONGRESSES TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SMALLER EAST EUROPEAN STATES IN THIS AREA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. DITTMAR STATED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE FRG WOULD NOT RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO THE SOVIET INITIATIVE PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS IN THE FRG.

3. DITTMAR THEN REVIEWED EACH SOVIET CONGRESS PROPOSAL IN TURN, NOTING POSSIBLE UTILITY AND DRAWBACKS OF EACH. HE BELIEVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS WOULD PRESENT THE LEAST PROBLEM AND THE GREATEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS. A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS COULD USEFULLY BE TAKEN UP; E.G., COORDINATION OF IDEAS ON FUTURE RESEARCH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DANUBE, SYMPOSIA ON WATER OR AIR. THE FACT THAT THE FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY IS LOCATED IN BERLIN WOULD BE THE KEY STUMBLING BLOCK. HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS CONGRESS PROPOSAL WOULD PROVE TO BE SO IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THIS AGENCY AS PART OF THE FRG DELEGATION. THE SCOPE FOR INITIATIVES IN TRANSPORTATION WAS SEVERELY LIMITED IN VIEW OF THE LONG HISTORY OF ECE WORK IN

THIS AREA. DITTMAR SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO AVOID HAVING THE RHINE-DANUBE CANAL PROJECT TAKEN UP, INDICATING INSTEAD A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR LIMITING DISCUSSION OF THIS MAJOR PROJECT TO THE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IN ADDITION, HE FEARED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID DISCUSSIONS OF FINANCING. IN ECE CONTEXT THE FRG HAS SUCCEEDED IN TACTIC OF LIMITING MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN ECE TO NON-FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. FINANCIAL ASPECTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HANDLED BILATERALLY (E.G., EIB LOAN TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION). IN HIS VIEW, AN ENERGY CONGRESS OFFERED EVEN LESS SCOPE FOR USEFUL TOPICS, IN VIEW OF CIEC'S WORK IN THIS AREA.

4. DITTMAR AND MOHRMANN INDICATED THAT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11370

FRG COULD SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN ECE IN ORDER TO MEET SOVIET CHARGES THAT ECE IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE FORUM FOR DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS. THE FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN ECE AND THEN HAVE A SIGNING CONFERENCE ELSEWHERE. THE FRG ALSO COULD RAISE
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THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN ECE UP TO STATE SECRETARY LEVEL IF THIS WERE NECESSARY AND COULD SUPPORT REFORMS TO MAKE ECE A MORE EFFICIENT BODY. (DITTMAR INTERJECTED HOWEVER THAT ONE OF THE PLUS FACTORS OF ECE AS REGARDS GERMAN INTERESTS IS THAT IT HAS BEEN SO INEFFICIENT).

5. EMBOFFS IN TURN IMPRESSED UPON DITTMAR THE SINCERE DESIRE OF THE U.S.G. TO SEE CONCRETE ACTION IN ECE, EMPHASIZING THE U.S. VIEW THAT MASSIVE CONGRESSES COULD NOT ACHIEVE SUCH CONCRETE RESULTS AND THAT THE "SPECIAL ATTENTION" PROJECTS AGREED TO IN HELSINKI PROVIDE THE ONLY REAL CHANCE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

6. DITTMAR HAD FELT NO TIME PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN ANY OF THE "SPECIAL ATTENTION" PROJECTS, BUT RATHER HAD SEEMED TO BE CONTENT TO MARK TIME UNTIL THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP NEXT YEAR. HE ACCEPTED THE USG LINE OF ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, WHICH SEEMED TO BUTTRESS HIS OWN ANTI-LARGE CONGRESS RESOLVE. DITTMAR PROMISED TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE "SPECIAL ATTENTION" PROJECTS LIST TO FIND PROJECTS WHICH COULD MOVE FORWARD IN THE COMING YEAR.
HILLENBRAND

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